

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 7 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend claims 1-6 as follows:

A1 Sub 857 101
1. (Amended) A disposable diaper having a front waist region, a rear waist region and a crotch region, and a waist hole and a pair of leg-holes, said diaper further comprising:

at least one of said front and rear waist regions including a covering zone formed integrally with said crotch region and an elastic zone extending continuously along a full length in a circumferential direction of said at least one of said front and rear waist regions to define at least part of said waist-hole;

said elastic zone including a first member that is elastically stretchable in said circumferential direction of said at least one of said front and rear waist regions to a length greater than a transverse length of said covering zone and a second member covering said first member; and

said second member being inelastically stretchable to a length greater than the transverse length of said covering zone and attached to an upper edge of said covering zone.

2. (Amended) The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said first member comprises at least one rubber ribbon.

3. (Amended) The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said second member comprises a sheet material having an initial length greater than the length of said covering zone in said circumferential direction of said at least one of said front and rear waist regions and formed in said circumferential direction with gathers in order to shorten said sheet material substantially to said length of said covering zone.

4. (Amended) The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said second member comprises a sheet material having a length substantially equal to the length of said covering zone in said circumferential direction of said at least one of said front and rear waist regions and inelastically stretchable in said circumferential direction.

5. (Amended) The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said covering zone is non-stretchable in said circumferential direction of said at least one of said front and rear waist regions.

6. (Amended) The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said covering zone is elastically stretchable in said circumferential direction and has a stretch stress higher than a stretch stress of said elastic zone when said elastic zone is stretched by 3-20% in a portion of said covering zone extending along said elastic zone and having a same width as said elastic zone.